

Appendix table 7-12

Correct answers to polar questions, by respondent characteristic: 2006 and 2010

(Percent)

Characteristic	2006 (n = 1,864)					2010 (n = 1,447)				
	<i>The North Pole is on a sheet of ice that floats on the Arctic Ocean.</i> (True)	<i>The sun never shines at the South Pole.</i> (False)	<i>Hunting is more likely than climate change to make polar bears become extinct.</i> (False)	<i>Have the polar ice caps gotten larger or smaller over the last 25 years?</i> (Smaller)	Polar knowledge index ^a	<i>The North Pole is on a sheet of ice that floats on the Arctic Ocean.</i> (True)	<i>The sun never shines at the South Pole.</i> (False)	<i>Hunting is more likely than climate change to make polar bears become extinct.</i> (False)	<i>Have the polar ice caps gotten larger or smaller over the last 25 years?</i> (Smaller)	Polar knowledge index ^a
All adults	41	67	36	77	55	48	68	44	79	60
Sex										
Male	52	75	40	86	63	56	76	46	81	65
Female	33	61	32	71	49	42	61	41	77	55
Formal education										
<High school	39	50	19	60	42	45	49	32	62	47
High school graduate	39	61	33	70	51	43	62	38	75	54
Some college	37	67	40	82	56	50	70	45	82	62
Baccalaureate	47	78	38	84	61	59	82	53	87	70
Graduate/professional	52	85	45	91	69	46	79	57	91	68
Science/mathematics education ^b										
Low	36	61	33	70	50	44	61	39	74	55
Middle	42	72	37	86	59	55	74	50	88	67
High	55	80	43	90	67	62	81	58	90	73
Family income (quartile)										
Top	47	78	40	89	64	53	76	52	85	66
Second	43	68	43	81	59	52	75	44	85	64
Third	41	67	34	79	55	49	68	45	78	60
Bottom	41	59	29	68	49	41	59	36	69	51
Age (years)										
18–24	48	66	37	83	59	53	65	38	87	61
25–34	45	72	33	73	56	51	68	45	81	61
35–44	38	68	37	75	54	45	72	47	74	60
45–54	39	69	37	79	56	53	72	48	79	63
55–64	45	63	36	83	57	45	72	46	81	61
65+	35	60	34	75	51	42	54	36	73	51
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^c										
Top	61	89	46	94	73	62	90	54	91	74
Second	37	71	42	85	59	51	74	53	86	66
Third	37	57	28	72	49	47	57	40	79	56
Bottom	24	38	20	43	31	28	44	23	53	37

^aPercentage of four polar questions answered correctly.^bLow = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses.^cSee notes to appendix table 7-8 for explanation of trend factual knowledge of science scale.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006, 2010).